



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- The Rutland Herald reports that about a dozen workers in the reactor building at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vermont were evacuated Tuesday because of a doubling of radiation levels in a portion of the plant. Entergy officials said the higher radiation levels were the result of human error in changing a filter in the reactor's cooling system. (See item [10](#))
- According to the Associated Press, an electronic communication failure at a Federal Aviation Administration facility in Hampton, Georgia, caused mass flight delays around the country. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 27, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Gulf oil cos watch, prepare for storm Gustav.** U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil and natural gas producers were closely watching Tropical Storm Gustav on Wednesday morning while making plans to evacuate workers from offshore platforms. U.S. crude oil CLV8 was up more than \$3, trading above \$119 per barrel, on fears about Gustav's impact on Gulf production, which provides 25 percent of U.S. oil output and 15 percent of the nation's natural gas production. "More and more of the tracks are all in agreement. Somewhere between Houston and New Orleans we're going to have a problem. That's the heart of the platforms. And they're still saying Category 3

or higher,” said an advisor at Commercial Brokerage Corp. on Wednesday. U.S. forecasters said the storm was expected to strengthen to a major hurricane when it entered the Gulf of Mexico by Sunday with winds greater than 111 miles per hour. On Wednesday, a Petrobras PET4.SA spokesman said the company was nearing a decision on evacuations. “Depending on the way it takes, tomorrow they are going to make a decision whether to evacuate the platforms, either Friday or Saturday,” he said on Wednesday. Shell Oil said on Tuesday it could decide as early as Wednesday to evacuate nonessential workers from its platforms.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2744306120080827>

2. *August 26, Reuters* – (Missouri) **Panhandle Mo. gas line break has no shipper impact.** Southern Union Co. unit Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. said Tuesday a rupture on a portion of its 6,500-mile natural gas line in Missouri was not impacting customer shipments. A company spokesman said there were no fires or injuries. The rupture took place downstream of the Houstonia compressor station in central Missouri. “The outage will reduce mainline capacity, but at this time there is no anticipated impact to shippers,” a website posting said. Panhandle delivers up to 2.8 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas to Midwest and East Coast markets. He added that the company was monitoring Hurricane Gustav as it moved on a track that could take it toward offshore energy production in the Gulf of Mexico.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2635506320080826>

3. *August 26, Post-Searchlight* – (Georgia) **Flood warning issued after Fay wreaks havoc.** Strong wind caused many trees to fall on roads and utility lines during last weekend. More than 15,000 Georgia Power customers in southwest Georgia lost power as a result of Tropical Storm Fay; however, service was restored by Sunday. More than 200 Georgia Power employees from across the state came to assist with service reconnection, said the Bainbridge area manager for Georgia Power.

Source:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20092213&BRD=2068&PAG=461&dept_id=387472&rfti=6

4. *August 25, Platts* – (National) **Coal-fired generators to switch to gas at about \$7/Mcf: bank.** Electric utilities will switch from using coal to natural gas as fuel for their power plants when gas prices hit \$7/Mcf, Raymond James’ top coal and natural gas analysts said Monday, adding that a huge number of variables actually create a \$5 to \$9/Mcf band where fuel switching is attractive. An oil and gas analyst and a coal analyst also cautioned that they have no historical precedents to a wholesale switch out of coal to gas – it has never happened in the U.S. But a wholesale switch is difficult to model, the analysts said, because of the differing heat rate efficiencies of coal and gas plants that have excess capacity. Other complications in fuel switching assessments include difficulties with the transmission grid which might not link a gas plant to the market needing power and lower incentives for utilities that operate on a cost-plus basis to switch. Further, at certain times of the year, namely summer, there will not be much

excess gas-fired capacity to sell, they said. “Many envision a switching process where someone just flips a switch or valve and electric generation plants seamlessly switch from coal to natural gas,” the analysts said. “In the real world, coal-fired generation plants are completely different plants in separate locations from gas-fired plants. In actuality, the coal plants and gas plants may not even be owned by the same regional utilities. Furthermore, the electric transmission grid may not have sufficient interconnectivity to allow switching,” they added. “In other words, there are numerous impediments that can affect switching to natural gas from coal, even after reaching a favorable economic threshold,” the analysts said.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6941680.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 27, Nation's Health* – (International) **Chemicals a risk to health, says World Public Health Federation.** The World Federation of Public Health Associations has joined with global leaders in calling for the safe management of chemicals that may pose a risk to human health and the environment. During its 42nd Annual Meeting in Geneva in May, federation members passed a resolution in support of safer chemical policies, acknowledging that “many of the substances useful to society are also hazardous to human and ecosystem health.” The federation resolution calls for action to address the developing world’s lack of capacity for managing chemicals, to facilitate access to information on chemical risks and to support development of safer alternatives, among other measures. The resolution calls for specific attention to prevent adverse effects among women, children and other populations who are particularly vulnerable to the health risks of chemicals. The new resolution from the World Federation of Public Health Associations echoes many of the measures laid out under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, a global plan of action adopted by environmental and health leaders in Dubai in 2006. The chemical management plan has a goal of ensuring that chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize their effects on human and environmental health by 2020.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1534456/chemicals_a_risk_to_health_says_world_public_health_federation/

6. *August 26, WENY 36 Elmira* – (New York) **Chemical spill contained.** Crews are cleaning up the chemical spill in the Chemung River in Painted Post, New York. Health Officials say, on Tuesday 200 gallons of semi-synthetic coolant spilled into the Chemung River from the Dresser Rand plant. Workers use the chemical to cut steel at the factory. The Elmira Water Board shut off its intake of water from the river and is using a reserve supply. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation says the spill is contained and does not pose a danger to drinking water.

Source: <http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?ARTICLE3864=9136799>

7. *August 26, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **Chemical explosion forces temporary evacuation.** A small explosion at a chemical plant just outside Commerce City, Colorado, forced a temporary evacuation Tuesday afternoon, but there were no injuries. The area around the site of the plant was originally evacuated and 104th Avenue was closed, but the road has reopened and evacuations were lifted. No further evacuations were ordered.
Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/17303175/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *August 27, KPLC 7 Lake Charles* – (Louisiana) **World class nuclear module facility coming to LC Port.** This is the big one and southwest Louisiana has landed it. It is a joint venture between Shaw Group and Westinghouse. Global Modular Solutions is to make modules for new nuclear power plants. The governor made the announcement: “The investment that the Shaw Group has made, the partnership with Westinghouse, they have formed a joint venture. They have selected the Port of Lake Charles for the location for a new nuclear modular components manufacturing facility, the first of its kind in the United States, not only breaking ground on a brand new facility for Louisiana, it’s a brand new facility for America... it will make Louisiana a major leader in what they call a nuclear renaissance.” The 600,000 square foot module fabrication facility will be located on a 300 acre site at the Port of Lake Charles. The new facility is expected to be operational in the late summer of 2009. Besides a state incentive package of about \$32 million dollars for the project, close to \$20 million comes from local government. Officials say no radioactive parts or materials will be handled at the facility.
Source: http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8906201&nav=menu66_3
9. *August 27, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Michigan; Northeast) **NRC denies union’s request to intervene in license transfer.** Neither a group of environmental organizations nor a labor union has grounds to contest Entergy’s plan to spin off six of its nuclear reactors into a new company, stated the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in a ruling issued August 22. Because they have no standing, wrote the NRC, their petition to intervene in the license transfer of nuclear power plants in Vernon, Vermont, Oswego and Buchanan, New York, Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Covert Township, Michigan, was denied.
Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_10313738
10. *August 27, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Yankee workers evacuated.** About a dozen workers in the reactor building at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant were evacuated Tuesday around noon because of a doubling of radiation levels in a portion of the plant, Entergy officials said late Tuesday. The higher radiation levels were the result of human error, they said, in changing a filter in the reactor’s cooling system. There were no radioactive releases to the environment and the problem did not affect the operation of the plant nor its power production, according to a spokesman for Entergy Nuclear. He said the worker failed to clean all the water off a demineralization filter, and the extra

water in the reactor's cooling system created additional nitrogen, which became radioactive. He said the nitrogen gas decayed to "negligible levels" within seconds. The workers were kept out of the reactor building for about two hours. He said the problem was under investigation. He said Entergy Nuclear notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Vermont Department of Emergency Management as a courtesy. He said that control room operators noticed the doubling of radiation levels in the main steam line in the reactor building. Entergy Nuclear notified the public about the problem shortly before 5 p.m.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080827/NEWS02/808270353/1003/NEWS02>

11. *August 27, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Massachusetts) **Massachusetts agreement state report potential overexposure.** On August 20, a technician working with an Ir-192 source set off high radiation alarms at the QSA Global facility in Burlington, Massachusetts, which caused the immediate evacuation of the building. Radiation surveys outside the building indicated a dose rate of approximately three mR/hr at a distance of 25 feet from the exterior of the building. Radiation safety staff performed a source retrieval to recover the source and place it in a shielded container; the building was reoccupied approximately 30 minutes later. Radiation safety staff from QSA are performing additional investigations and will report back to the MA Radiation Control Program Office when more information becomes available. The State of Massachusetts was notified by the licensee of the incident on August 21.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080827en.html#en44430>

12. *August 26, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio: Plant engineer convicted.** A federal jury convicted a former nuclear plant engineer of hiding information from regulators about the worst corrosion ever found at a reactor in the United States. Prosecutors said the engineer and two other workers lied in 2001 so that the Davis-Besse plant in Ohio along Lake Erie could delay a shutdown for a safety inspection. Months later, inspectors found an acid leak in the reactor's six-inch-thick steel cap. The engineer covered up the damage and lied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the jury said. He was convicted on three of five counts, including concealing material information. The jury cleared him on two counts of making false statements. His lawyers said the plant's owner set him up as a scapegoat because he had spoken out about safety concerns. They will consider an appeal, they said. After the acid leak was discovered, the regulatory agency increased inspections and training and began requiring detailed records of its discussions with plant operators.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/27/us/27brfs-PLANTENGINEER_BRF.html?ref=us

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *August 26, Washington Post* – (National) **Air Force faults pilots in collision of F-15s.**

The Air Force has concluded that an F-15 fighter jet crash that killed a young officer over the Gulf of Mexico in February was the result of pilot error and was not related to the structural flaws that have been found in other aging F-15s, according to an investigation report released yesterday. The midair collision between two F-15C Eagle jets off the coast of Florida on February 20 destroyed both airplanes and scattered their parts across the ocean, killing one pilot instantly and leaving another pilot with minor injuries. Instead, Air Force officials deemed that the two pilots – both listed as “inexperienced” because they had fewer than 500 flight hours – failed to notice how close they were to each other while performing training exercises, lost sight of each other, and hit while performing a maneuver. After grounding all older F-15s last year, Air Force officials found nine that were unfit for flight because of cracks in the support beams known as longerons. Hundreds of other F-15s were returned to regular use. The Air Force has been promoting the retirement of such older planes amid a desire to buy more advanced and modern fighter jets, such as the F-22.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/25/AR2008082502145.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *August 27, National Mortgage News* – (Minnesota) **Final defendant in First Rate Mortgage scheme sentenced.** The last defendant involved in a fraudulent mortgage brokering business known as First Rate Mortgage Group that resulted in a loss to area banks of more than \$2.3 million was sentenced in Federal Court, according to the U.S. attorney’s office for the District of Minnesota. All six defendants pleaded guilty last fall to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and bank fraud. They admitted that between 2000 and August 2004 they conspired to use the U.S. Mail to execute a scheme to defraud financial institutions and private mortgage lenders of funds. Specifically, through their business, First Rate Mortgage Group, they represented that, for a fee, they could help people obtain financing for the purchase of real estate. In furtherance of their scheme, they mailed false and fraudulent loan applications to banks and mortgage lending companies, which concealed that First Rate Mortgage had loaned the money for the downpayment to the borrower. The applications also inflated the borrower’s income and assets, falsely described the borrower’s employment, contained forged signatures and attached false documents, including pay stubs, gift letters, bank statements and bank notes. In January 2004, the six defendants caused false loan applications to be submitted to Washington Mutual Bank in the amount of \$1.33 million and Associated Bank in the amount of \$378,555 on behalf of a borrower purchasing property in Wayzata, Minnesota. The applications falsely stated the source of the downpayment, which had been loaned by the conspirators, and included other falsified information. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Source: <http://www.nationalmortgagenews.com/fraud/stories/?storyid=20080820a.htm>

15. *August 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Banking customers’ personal details sold on eBay.** A computer containing banking security details of more than one million people has been sold on eBay, bank officials said Tuesday - the latest in a series of

losses of personal data in the U.K. The Royal Bank of Scotland acknowledged that a machine belonging to archiving company Graphic Data and sold “inappropriately to a third party” had information on credit card applications from some RBS customers and data from other banks. The computer contained account numbers, passwords, mobile telephone numbers and signatures.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/08/26/ap5360026.html>

16. *August 26, All Headlines News* – (National) **Data breach incidents at an all-time high in the U.S.** From January until August this year, 449 American businesses, government agencies and schools reported consumer data loss, according to the Identity Theft Resource Center. In contrast, 446 data breaches were recorded by the center for 2007 covering 127 million consumer records. The bulk of the record breach incidents were traced to retail chain TJX, which runs T.J. Maxx outlets. The District of Columbia and 44 states have legislation requiring companies that were victims of data loss to inform their affected clients. But only Maryland, New Hampshire and Wisconsin regularly publish data breach cases in their states online, Foley said. The center said 13 percent of the data breach is done by hacking, 15.6 percent to information theft done by company employees, 21 percent to lost laptops and other digital gadgets, 14 percent accidental publishing of sensitive consumer information and 11 percent breaches done by subcontractors.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7012070780>

17. *August 26, Associated Press* – (California; National) **Citi pays \$18M for questioned credit card practice.** Citigroup Inc. will pay nearly \$18 million in refunds and settlement charges for taking \$14 million from customers’ credit card accounts, California’s attorney general said Tuesday. Citigroup will make refunds to the 53,000 customers affected, and pay \$3.5 million in damages and civil penalties to the state of California, which had been investigating the questionable practices for three years, the attorney general said. The bank will also pay 10 percent interest to California customers, who accounted for \$1.6 million of the money “swept” out of accounts and into a Citi fund between 1992 and 2003. Citigroup’s “account sweeping program” automatically removed positive balances from customers’ credit card accounts, an attorney general said. For instance, if a customer double-paid a bill by mistake or refunded a purchase for credit, that positive balance was then taken from the customer without notification, he said. Citigroup, however, said in a statement that it voluntarily stopped the computerized “sweeping” practice in 2003, and that it also voluntarily began refunding customers before the settlement.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5im7vDRMYCHb80J8mbj_wexTdsKBAD92Q6F503

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Transportation Sector

18. *August 27, Associated Press* – (National) **FAA says communication breakdown delayed flights.** Mass flight delays caused by an electronic communication failure at a

Federal Aviation Administration facility drew new criticism. The Northeast was hardest hit by the delays prompted Tuesday by a glitch at a Hampton, Georgia, facility that processes flight plans for the eastern half of the U.S. By early evening, the FAA said that the situation around the country was returning to normal, with delays remaining in Atlanta and Chicago. At one point, an FAA Web site that tracks airport status showed delays at some three dozen major airports across the country. An FAA spokeswoman said there were no safety issues and officials were still able to speak to pilots on planes on the ground and in the air. She said she did not know exactly how many flights were affected, but she said it was in the hundreds. The FAA did not expect to have total figures until Wednesday. She said that in a 24-hour period the FAA processes more than 300,000 flight plans in the U.S. The official said the problem that occurred Tuesday afternoon involved a failure in a communication link that transmits flight plan data from the Georgia facility to a similar facility in Salt Lake City. As a result, the Salt Lake City facility had to process those flight plans, causing delays in planes taking off. She said the delays were primarily affecting departing flights. The official added that there was an unrelated hardware problem at the Hampton facility on Aug. 21 that resulted in issues processing flight plans. The FAA says on its Web site that a glitch that day involving the Hampton facility delayed the departure of at least 134 flights.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jRgDahJp29m0syjpH485FiJuXktwD92QGASO0>

19. *August 27, Wall-Street Journal* – (National) **Southwest set to challenge FAA penalties.**

Five months after regulators demanded that it pay a record \$10.2 million penalty for safety violations, Southwest Airlines has decided to fight the proposed punishment. Barring a last-minute resolution, the dispute appears to be headed for court after lawyers for the airline and the Federal Aviation Administration have dug in to opposing positions and appear to be running out of time to compromise. In March, the FAA proposed the largest civil penalty ever lodged against a U.S. carrier, saying Southwest knowingly flew 46 older-model Boeing 737s without performing mandatory structural inspections. Ten days ago, the FAA said it had no intention of reducing the size of the penalty because of the serious nature of the safety lapses. In a letter, the agency notified the airline that it expected payment by Friday. In a telephone conversation with FAA officials Tuesday, the airline told the agency “we do not intend to pay,” according to a spokeswoman. The FAA said in March that hundreds of thousands of passengers flew on the affected aircraft from June 2006 to March 2007, when Southwest voluntarily disclosed the missed inspections to officials in the FAA’s Dallas office. Instead of having the aircraft grounded immediately, local agency officials gave verbal approval for Southwest to keep flying the planes for more than a week while checks were completed. The mandatory inspections were to look for cracks in certain parts of the fuselage that could weaken the aluminum skin and result in potentially dangerous fractures or even decompressions during flight. The size of the penalty, the FAA said in its original announcement, “reflects the serious nature of those deliberate violations.”

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121979639481374831.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

20. *August 27, KTVT 11 Dallas* – (California) **AA flight makes emergency landing at**

LAX. An American Airlines plane bound for Dallas Fort Worth International Airport made an emergency landing in California early Wednesday morning. About 215 passengers were on the flight from Honolulu to DFW when it landed at 2 a.m. at LAX. In an American Airlines statement, officials said the pilot said the plane “was experiencing a flap switch problem and as a precaution diverted the flight into LAX.” Ground technicians at LAX evaluated the aircraft and re-boarded everyone about 2 hours later back in route for DFW. No one was injured.

Source: <http://cbs11tv.com/local/american.plane.diverted.2.804009.html>

21. *August 27, WOAI 4 San Antonio* – (Texas) **S.A. airport officials delay plane because of suspicious passenger.** According to a San Antonio International Airport spokesperson, a man set to board a plane heading for Washington, D.C., was stopped at a security checkpoint Tuesday morning because he was carrying an MP3 player that was wrapped in tape and batteries and connected with wires to another electronic device. Although the MP3 player was cleared, United Airlines requested the plane be swept by security workers and search dogs. Nothing was found. But the plane was still on the ground as of 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, leaving the 60 passengers waiting on the plane for more than five hours. Airport officials said the MP3 player was not the only warning signal for the passenger. There were also other suspicious devices in the man’s luggage, and he had booked 3 one-way tickets from Dallas to San Antonio and then to Washington, D.C. The man’s name has not been released. He is being detained at the airport and questioned by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=bf0e72d1-a0f4-4030-b3da-b5aaf7cba0ae

22. *August 27, Guardian* – (International) **Sudan hijacking passengers released.** The hijackers of a Sudanese plane that landed in Libya have freed all the passengers but are still holding six crew members, Libya’s aviation authority said today. The plane, which had been en route to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, was taken over by suspected Darfur rebels and diverted to an airstrip in Kufra, a remote town in the Libyan Sahara desert. The authority said 95 passengers had been on the Boeing 737-200 and all were Sudanese except two Egyptian police, two Ethiopians and a Ugandan. “Negotiations are continuing with the hijackers in order to free the remaining crew members and for the hijackers to give themselves up,” Libyan state news agency Jana quoted the head of the authority as saying. He said the hijackers had reiterated their demand for the plane to be refueled to fly to Paris. Sudan’s aviation authority said the hijackers had demanded refugee status there. The hijacked airliner belonged to a private company, Sun Air, the Sudanese civil aviation authority said in a statement carried by the Sudan Media Centre, which has close links to the government. There is conflicting information about the hijackers’ identities and how many there are.

Source:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/aug/27/sudan?gusrc=rss&feed=worldnews>

23. *August 27, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **OCTA gets federal grant to put cameras on buses.** By next year, about 40 percent of Orange County, California, buses will be equipped with cameras to monitor passengers and record onboard incidents. A pilot

program to allow transit police to monitor the cameras in real time from patrol vehicles is being developed and should be in place later this year, said an Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) spokesman. Cameras “help strengthen the nation’s transportation network against the risks associated with potential terrorist attacks,” he said. OCTA used about \$2 million in homeland security money over the last two years to buy cameras. This week, OCTA accepted another grant for about \$1.5 million, most of which will go toward putting cameras on 126 more buses. About \$100,000 of the grant will be used to support an emergency preparedness exercise and training program. The money comes from \$11.3 million in homeland security funds allotted to Orange and Los Angeles counties for increased bus and rail security, officials said. The security systems will be installed on new vehicles as they join OCTA’s fleet. Video is kept indefinitely, and the system is computerized so drivers can push a button and tag an incident if needed, the official said. In Los Angeles County, the Metropolitan Transit Authority has cameras on its entire fleet of more than 2,500 buses, many of which were funded with homeland security money, a spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-cameras27-2008aug27,0,2939872.story>

24. *August 26, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Harmless powder shuts down train.** A white powder spilled on a light rail car in Douglas County, Colorado, posed no risk to the commuters onboard, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) said. RTD shut down train service at the Lincoln Light Rail Station in Lone tree at 7 p.m., while local hazardous materials crews assessed the situation. The station was reopened at 10 p.m. An RTD spokesman said he did not know how much powder was spilled, or what the powder turned out to be, other than non-hazardous. He said an investigation is under way to determine if it was a hoax. Authorities across the metro region are moving quickly on suspicious packages and substances while the Democratic National Convention is going on in Denver. Earlier in the day, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security scooped up a bag left at the light rail park-N-Ride in Greenwood Village, which turned out to be just a forgotten bag that posed no risk, officials said.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_10311946

25. *August 26, KSBW 8 Watsonville* – (California) **Ethanol loading facilities fuel concerns.** The ethanol industry said it is on track to produce a record 9 billion gallons this year. But there are concerns around so-called ethanol transfer stations that are springing up around the country. It is where ethanol is pumped from rail cars into tanker trucks. Experts said ethanol is highly flammable grain alcohol and because it cannot be shipped by pipeline, the industry relies on trains and trucks to move it to fuel tank farms around the country. Concerned citizens point to recent accidents involving ethanol shipments. Last year in Baltimore, a tanker truck filled with ethanol flipped over and burst into flames. And in 2006, a train carrying the fuel in Pennsylvania derailed, causing an explosion. The ethanol industry said there is no cause for concern and the Federal Railroad Administration said there are strict regulations in place, like site inspections and other precautions that make this as safe as possible. A bill working its way through Congress would require safety and environmental impact assessments before this type of operation is allow in a community. Because these operations are

conducted on railroad property and are part of interstate rail operations, city governments cannot regulate them. The rail industry believes such regulation is not necessary. Government watchdogs said no government agency is keeping track of where ethanol transfer stations are being located. The American Ethanol Coalition said a couple of years ago there were only three or four of them. Now there are at least a dozen under construction.

Source: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/17306457/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *August 27, Smiths Detection* – (National) **Smiths Detection security technologies selected by U.S. Postal Inspection Service for mobile screening.** Smiths Detection announced that a number of its security technologies have been included in the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Mobile Mail Screening Station (MMSS). The Postal Inspection Service will debut the MMSS at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. The MMSS will allow postal inspectors to provide accurate and comprehensive mail and parcel screening at high-profile public events, while ensuring a safe and secure working environment for its postal inspectors. Additionally, the Postal Inspection Service has included FirstView, a sensor management platform developed by Smiths Detection, which will integrate the equipment and sensors with an internal CCTV system to allow for real-time situational monitoring and playback within the MMSS.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/smiths-detection-security-technologies-selected/story.aspx?guid={D9F51E9F-1156-4BEA-8EDF-FD7128F73B4D}&dist=hp>

27. *August 27, Times Tribune of Corbin* – (Kentucky) **‘White powder’ shuts down consular center.** The Kentucky Consular Center in Williamsburg shut down its loading dock Tuesday and called the regional hazmat team after a package was found containing an unknown white powder. The box containing the powder came from the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, Israel, and was in a “diplomatic pouch,” said the Consular director. From Jerusalem, the package arrived at Washington D.C. and was then shipped to the consular office in Williamsburg. Testing by the Kentucky Post 11 Hazardous Materials team did not determine the nature of the substance, but did rule out the possibility of it being harmful.

Source: http://www.thetimestribune.com/local/local_story_240084731.html

28. *August 26, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Powder scare empties Ffld. theater.** Suspicious white powder in a letter mailed to the Fairfield Theatre Co. in Connecticut prompted the evacuation of the group’s downtown building Tuesday afternoon. The substance turned out to be harmless. The Police captain said the department received a call from the manager of the theater company, who told police he was opening mail and found a white powdery substance in one of the envelopes. The area was cordoned off and the building evacuated, as the Fire Department, Fairfield County Haz-Mat Team, and the state Department of Environmental Protection responded.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/breakingnews/ci_10308080

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Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *August 26, WNYT 13 Albany* – (New York) **Food co-op opposes irradiated produce.**

The federal government's decision to allow the irradiation of certain produce is intended to calm consumer fears. Most meat is already irradiated. Now vegetables are being added to the mix. According to food purists, destroying microorganisms, bacteria, or viruses through radiation changes food at the molecular level, making it less nutritious, and that it could cause cancer. Food can also be contaminated during transportation. So irradiation provides a false sense of security.

Source: <http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S556995.shtml?cat=300>

30. *August 25, Washington Post* – (Alaska) **Alaska vote pits fisheries against mines.**

Alaskans will vote on a ballot measure that was drafted to block the proposed Pebble Mine, a massive operation that would extract gold, copper, and molybdenum from the tundra surrounding Bristol Bay in southwest Alaska, one of the world's most lucrative wild salmon fisheries. The measure would prohibit any new large metal mines from polluting salmon streams or drinking-water sources. Proponents acknowledge that they drafted the measure to block the Pebble Mine, which they say will poison two major streams where salmon come to spawn. The fishing industry is the state's largest private employer, with commercial, sport and subsistence fishing also central to the state's identity and culture. Bristol Bay is Alaska's most valuable salmon fishery, with 31 million salmon worth \$108 million caught there in 2007. The Pebble Partnership chief executive said the mine will not be developed if the company is not sure it can proceed without hurting salmon.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/24/AR2008082401674.html>

31. *August 25, Associated Press* – (National) **US grain exports snagged by infrastructure delays.** Across the country, from grain elevator to grain elevator, golden wheat and corn are piled in towering mounds, waiting for a rail car to haul them to market. Some grain can sit for a month or more on the ground, exposed to wind, rain, and rats. A large harvest this fall is expected to test the system even further. Some agribusiness groups worry the bottlenecks could hurt the United States' standing as a global food provider as other nations, such as Brazil and Argentina, compete for a lucrative share of the market. If the U.S. loses just one or two percent of that market to fast-growing exporters like Argentina, it could drain between \$900 million and \$1.8 billion from the economy. One of the tightest bottlenecks happens at busy U.S. ports, where crops are loaded onto oceangoing vessels.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/24/AR2008082401012.html>

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Water Sector

32. *August 27, Explorer* – (Arizona) **Drugs found in town's water supply.** Small amounts of drugs have been found in a well in Continental Ranch, Arizona, but Tucson Water officials maintain that the levels of the pharmaceuticals are harmless. Earlier this month, the water utility conducted a test on the Marana area well and where water from the Central Arizona Project enters the Tucson system, said a Tucson Water spokesman. The tests, which measured the chemicals in parts per trillion, detected Carbamazepine, a mood stabilizer; Iopromide, used in X-ray imaging; Sulfamethoxazole, used to treat urinary tract infections; and the antibacterial agent Triclosan. Treated wastewater is discharged into the Santa Cruz River, not far from the Continental Ranch well, which is drilled to 450 feet, although the water level is near 140 feet. The water then seeps down, being filtered as it sinks, before it is pumped up again. New testing methods have made it possible for water quality to be measured in detail, despite a lack of formal health standards for the substances. However, in order to receive a pharmaceutical dosage of the drugs, one would have to drink 1.3 million gallons of the water.

Source:

<http://www.explorernews.com/articles/2008/08/27/news/doc48b47a58ead8d586534890.txt>

33. *August 26, Modesto Bee* – (California) **Water atlas provides county with a starting point.** Water has a long history of contentiousness, and in Stanislaus County, California, the Department of Public Works has developed a water atlas, which collects studies, reports, and compiles general information about water in the county and puts it in one place. The maps date back 50 years and show groundwater overdrafts under Modesto and east of Turlock developing over several decades. While surface water is closely monitored and managed by irrigation districts in the county, groundwater in the north portion of the county and the West Side lacks organized oversight, the atlas concludes. "It's a tool to bring people together to talk about water," the Department of Public Works director said. "It shows we all have similar issues. Communities can see what others have done, and it saves time looking for information." The water atlas maps the territory of all the water providers in the county, and all the rivers, canals, and reservoirs.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/406769.html>

34. *August 26, Bradenton Herald* – (Florida) **Lockheed admits Tallevast water spill traced to unapproved pipe.** Lockheed Martin Corp. has acknowledged it installed the wrong pipe in a water treatment system that leaked August 3, spilling more than 5,000 gallons of contaminated water. Moreover, the spill penetrated soil up to 30 feet away from the treatment system used to clean toxic groundwater from the source of the Tallevast plume, according to an incident report Lockheed filed as required with state regulators on Friday. The 200-acre toxic plume has been traced back to a former beryllium plant, which Lockheed once owned.

Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/news/local/story/834542.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *August 27, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **HMO to pay \$41M for shorting NJ patients.** State officials say a health maintenance organization has paid \$41 million in claims and fines for shortchanging 88,000 customers in New Jersey. State officials say Health Net underpaid claims to reimburse patients for out-of-network health care services between 1996 and 2006. Checks, ranging from several thousand dollars to a few dollars, were mailed to current and former customers starting last month. Health Net serves 120,000 policyholders in the state.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--hmo-fine0827aug27.0.4872895.story>

36. *August 26, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Grand Prairie's Renaissance Hospital files for bankruptcy.** The re-opening of Grand Prairie, Texas', only hospital hit another snag when its owners filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week. Renaissance Hospital's filing comes just four months after Atlantic Health Group acquired a majority stake in the troubled Renaissance Healthcare Systems. Renaissance operates facilities in Dallas, Houston, and Groves. It also leases the Terrell Hospital from the city. The company now plans to sell its assets in Terrell.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/082708dnmetrenaissance.39cd718.html>

37. *August 25, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Wyo. health officials investigate case of plague.** The Wyoming Department of Health is investigating how a Boy Scout who visited northwest Wyoming became infected with bubonic plague. A Boy Scout spokesman says the 18-year-old from Connecticut was hospitalized but now is recovering at home. It is unknown where the young man may have contracted the disease. Health officials in Connecticut told their Wyoming counterparts about the case late last week. If he did get the disease in Wyoming, it would be the first plague case in a human in Wyoming since 2004. Wyoming has had only five confirmed plague cases since 1978.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2008/08/25/wyo_health_officials_investigate_case_of_plague/

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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Emergency Services Sector

38. *August 27, USA Today* – (National) **FEMA spends almost \$3B on emergency housing.**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has paid nearly \$3 billion in hotel bills and rental assistance for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita — by far the costliest emergency housing effort in the nation's history, according to government statistics. On the cusp of the storms' three-year anniversaries more than 14,000 families remain in FEMA-funded apartments across the Gulf Coast and as far away as Alaska. The spending continues today because three years of labor and planning across the Gulf Coast has not replaced enough of the homes and apartments the storms destroyed. The price tag far outdistances housing costs after any other U.S. disaster, FEMA statistics show. The agency spent less than \$250 million on housing for the previous six hurricanes combined, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-08-25-katrina_N.htm

39. *August 27, KXAS 5 Dallas* – (Texas) **Police, firefighters say stolen radios could divert responders.** Emergency responders said the people behind a rash of thefts at Dallas fire stations could use the equipment to send fake transmissions. Thousands of dollars worth of specialized equipment has been stolen from Dallas fire engines and ambulances in the past week. “No. 1, having a first-responder vehicle broken into in first place is rare but to have that many in a week is extremely rare,” an official said. Thieves have taken four handheld radios programmed with emergency frequencies. Unlike police and fire scanners, the radios have the capability to make calls. Dallas first responders are being warned about the potential for pranks. “Not only could they be listening to us communicate back and forth between officers, but they could get on there and send us to calls – false calls – and divert us from other calls,” the official said.

Source: <http://www.nbc5i.com/news/17307930/detail.html>

40. *August 26, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **911 calls rerouted due to cut phone lines.** Phone communication to and from the Friendswood Public Safety building was cut Tuesday morning when a construction crew working close to the public safety building on FM 528 cut all phone lines into the facility. This outage is affecting emergency and non-emergency phone lines and the radio system. All 911 calls and dispatch operations automatically switched to the Webster Police Department when the lines were cut. A public safety dispatcher has relocated to the Webster Police Department to assist in the increased call volume and a public safety employee will be available to answer requests for service called in to City Hall.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=6352156>

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Information Technology

41. *August 27, VNUNet* – (National) **Malware rockets again.** Last month saw more web-based malware blocked than the whole of 2007, an increase of a third, according to security as a service vendor ScanSafe. The firm's latest Global Threat Report for July found an increase of 87 percent in web-based malware blocks from June to July, mainly caused by the increasing use of SQL injection attacks. July also saw a surge in social engineering-based email attacks, where users are tricked into installing backdoor Trojans and other malware on their PCs. According to ScanSafe, 95 percent of its

customers tried to click on links to malicious sites in these emails.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2224747/malware-rockets-again>

42. *August 26, SPAMfighter* – (National) **Three botnets yield 75% spam in H1 2008, says Marshal.** The Threat Research and Content Engineering (TRACE) report by Marshal for H1 2008 revealed that three botnets accounted for 75 percent of spam in the January-June 2008 review period. All the three botnets produced billions of messages every hour through zombie computers. The analysis further revealed that cyber criminals are employing blended attacks to send malware and links to hacked Websites through e-mails on a massive scale. Un-patched browsers are making more than 45 percent of users vulnerable to attacks by exposing their personal details when they visit the legitimate site loaded with malicious code, said Marshal. Marshal said the volume spam doubled in the first six months of 2008. Srizbi botnet, the most productive offender during review period, sent more than 7.80 billion spam messages every hour. Srizbi is the world's largest botnet controlling over 315,000 compromised machines and sending more than 50 percent of the total spam mails, followed by Mega-D and Rustock each accounting for 14 percent. Marshal further said that 90 percent of spam originated from a mere seven botnets, pointing to millions of computer infected with Trojan worldwide
- Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-10838-Three-Botnets-Yield-75-Spam-in-H1-2008-Says-Marshal.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

43. *August 26, Monterey County Herald* – (California) **Broken cable hits cell phone service.** A broken fiber-optic cable in the San Jose area disrupted Verizon cell phone service from Eureka to Santa Barbara, a company spokeswoman said Tuesday afternoon. She said crews are working to repair the line owned by Qwest Communications that was cut about 2 p.m., adding that other communications companies may be affected. Verizon cell phone users may experience call failure, poor call quality, or be unable to access features such as voice mail, depending on the cell phone towers in their area, she said. Disruptions occurred in Monterey, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Chico, Redding, Yreka, and Eureka.
- Source: http://www.montereyherald.com/breaking/ci_10308867

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

44. *August 26, Ludington Daily News* – (Michigan) **Wind turbines proposed for National Forest.** White Pines Wind Farm, a subsidiary of BP Alternative Energy, has applied for a special land use permit with the U.S. Forest Service to place 20-28 wind turbines, each 420 feet tall, in the forest north of Forest Trail. A Huron-Manistee National Forest spokesman said the number of wind turbines depends upon further investigation by the company and the forest services. He said the turbines would not be right on the waterfront, but would certainly be visible from Lake Michigan. Each tower could generate 2.5 megawatts of energy for a total of 70 megawatts if 28 are built. Because of transmission constraints, no more than 28 would be built. The Forest Service issues special use permits for everything from a powerline easement to a remote home to natural gas wells on its land.

Source: http://www.ludingtondailynews.com/news.php?story_id=41184

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Dams Sector

45. *August 27, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Hope renewed for levee project.** The proposed Donaldsonville to the Gulf levee, which would protect St. Charles Parish's west bank, is among the projects given new life by the president's decision to give Louisiana 30 years to pay the local match for 100-year hurricane protection in much of the New Orleans area. The longer repayment period frees \$4 million for the proposed Donaldsonville to the Gulf levee project, which would protect the west bank communities of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. James parishes. Without the waiver, the state would have had to pay \$1.8 billion over three years to meet its obligation for the project, shelving other coastal protection projects in the process. The parish has spent more than 15 years and \$10 million to build its own levee, much of that time battling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about the alignment. But the new levee standards, among other things, limit the amount of organic material that can be used for levee construction. The parish's project, being built by Lafourche levee district crews, uses nearby soil to build the levee rather than clay trucked in from elsewhere. Two of the three alignments under consideration generally follow the parish's proposed route. Corps officials want the levee to hug existing development, which parish officials fear could cause drainage problems in existing neighborhoods. Still, the Donaldsonville to the Gulf project, which would run from Bayou Lafourche westward along three possible routes, is not a sure thing. A similar project west of Bayou Lafourche, the Morganza to the Gulf project, has seen its estimated cost rise from about \$1.5 billion to a staggering \$10 billion to \$11 billion because of new standards designed to ensure that the levee can withstand a 100-year storm, or one that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/riverparishes/index.ssf?/base//news->

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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